

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0179

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: PERMREPS LUNCH JANUARY 14

SUMMARY: AT LUNCH ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, PERMREPS HELD INFORMAL DISCUSSION ON FOLLOWING TOPICS: U.S. REPORT TO DPQ-74, VISITS BY SENIOR ALLIED OFFICIALS TO WARSAW PACT NATIONS, INFRASTRUCTURE, EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION THROUGH NATO-WIDE NETWORK, THE UK DEFENSE REVIEW, AND POLITICAL-MILITARY ASSESSMENTS IN PERIODS OF TENSION AND CRISIS. HIGHLIGHTS OF CONVERSATION ON THESE SUBJECTS REPORTED BELOW. PERMREPS' DISCUSSIONS OF TWO OTHER TOPICS, VENUE FOR SPRING 1975 NAC MINISTERIAL AND COST OF LIVING SALARY INCREASES FOR NATO/IS PERSONNEL ARE REPORTED SEPTELS. END SUMMARY.

1. U.S. REPLY TO DPQ-74:-AMBASSADOR BRUCE INFORMED ALLIES THAT THE UNITED STATES NOW PLANS TO REQUIP SOME EUROPEAN BASED TACTICAL FIGHTER UNITS WITH NEW F-15 AIRCRAFT 18 MONTHS AHEAD OF THE SCHEDULE PROVIDED TO NATO ALLIES IN THE 1974 REPLY TO THE DEFENSE PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE (DPQ-74). THE ACCELERATED APRIL 1977 ARRIVAL WILL SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE NATO'S CAPABILITY TO EXECUTE CLOSE AIR SUPPORT AND AIR DEFENSE MISSIONS. IN ORDER TO OPTIMIZE LOGISTICAL CONFIDENTIAL

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SUPPORT, BRUCE CONTINUED, THE INITIAL WING OF F-15'S WILL BE CONSOLIDATED AT BITBURG, GERMANY, AS OPPOSED TO THE FOUR LOCATIONS OF HAHN, RAMSTEIN, ERDING AND CAMP NEW AMSTERDAM CURRENTLY REFLECTED IN OUR DPQ-74 RESPONSE. WE ARE ISSURING A CORRIGENDUM TO THE

U.S. REPLY TO DPQ-74 TO REFLECT THIS ACCELERATED MODERNICATION OF OUR FIGHTER FORCES IN EUROPE. PERMREPS WELCOMED THIS REPORT.

2. VISITS BY SENIOR ALLIED OFFICIALS TO WARSAW PACT NATIONS: - BRUCE RECALLED THE OCTOBER 29-NOVEMBER 3 VISIT OF PORTUGUESE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO CUNHAL TO MOSCOW ON WHICH COUNCIL HAS NOT RECEIVED A REPORT, AND NOTED TWO OTHER RECENT VISITS: A. PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES' VISIT EARLY THIS MONTH TO MOSCOW AND BELGRADE, AND B. GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS' RECENT VISIT TO BULGARIA. BRUCE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT ALL ALLIES WERE EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN HAVING REPORTS ON THESE VISITS. PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR DE FREITAS CRUZ PROMISED TO INFORM THE COUNCIL IN THE NEAR FUTURE OF MINISTER SOARES' TRIP.

3. INFRASTRUCTURE: - BRUCE RAISED THE SUBJECT OF DPC APPROVAL OF INFRASTRUCTURE SLICE XXV. HE RECALLED THAT IN JULY 1974 THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE COMPLETED SCREENING OF SLICE XXV AND RECOMMENDED IT FOR SILENT PROCEDURE APPROVAL BY THE DPC IN LATE AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER. IN THE MEANTIME, THE SYG TOOK THE PRECAUTIONARY STEP OF STOPPING THE APPROVAL OF SLICE XXV (WHICH CONTAINED IAU 6.8 MILLION FOR PROJECTS IN GREECE OF WHICH IAU 3 MILLION FOR OTHER THAN GREEK USERS) PENDING CLARIFICATION OF ATHENS' POLICY.

4. BRUCE POINTED OUT THAT SLICE XXV CONTAINS IAU 71 MILLION IN PROJECTS WHICH WILL SEEN HAVE BEEN DELAYED FOR FIVE MONTHS. WITH CONSTRUCTION COSTS CLIMBING BY AS MUCH AS 20 PERCENT PER YEAR IN SOME COUNTRIES, IT APPEARED DESIRABLE TO APPROVE THE SLICE NOW TO PREVENT FURTHER EROSION. LUNS NOTED THE CONNECTION OF THE GREEK PROBLEM WITH THE DELAY IN APPROVING SLICE XXV. HE SUPPORTED THE U. S. SUGGESTION BY PROPOSING THAT IT SHOULD BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED AND AN EARLY DECISION REACHED.

5. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION THROUGH NATO-WIDE NETWORK: - BRUCE RECALLED THAT AT THE DECEMBER 1973 DPC MINISTERIAL SECDEF SCHLESINGER PROMISED TO INCREASE AND ENHANCE INPUT OF MILITARY AND POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE AND ASSESSMENT TO THE NATO-WIDE NETWORK. CONFIDENTIAL

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BRUCE NOTED THAT USNATO HAD EXAMINED THE USE OF THIS SYSTEM DURING 1974 AND HAD FOUND A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN U.S. PERFORMANCE. HE CALLED PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE 1974 USE OF THE ASSESSMENT SERIES WHICH PROVIDES FOR ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF SIGNIFICANT INTELLIGENCE AND DEVELOPMENTS. ONLY SEVEN ALLIES CONTRIBUTED TO THE 201 ASSESSMENTS IN THIS CHANNEL DURING CALENDAR 1974, AND ONLY FOUR DID SO ON A REGULAR BASIS. BRUCE ENCOURAGED OTHER ALLIES TO EXAMINE THE VALUE OF THIS CHANNEL TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS AND THE ALLIANCE AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO, OR EXPAND THE DISSEMINATION OF, ASSESSMENTS VIA INCREASED USE OF THIS CHANNEL. LUNS AND PERMREPS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR U.S. PERFORMANCE AND AGREED OTHER ALLIED GOVERNMENTS SHOULD INCREASE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS.

6. UK DEFENSE REVIEW: - UK PERMREP PECK EMPHASIZED THE HOPE OF HIS GOVERNMENT THAT NATO CONSULTATION ON THE UK DEFENSE PLAN MIGHT BE COMPLETED BY FEBRUARY 10. LUNS RESPONDED THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE CANNOT COMPLETE ITS REPORT ON THE UK PLAN UNTIL FEBRUARY 2, AND THE DPC SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST A WEEK FOR ITS REVIEW OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE'S CONCLUSIONS. PECK WAS EVIDENTLY DISAPPOINTED AND SAID HIS GOVERNMENT MUST COMPLETE THE FINAL REVIEW IN THE UK BEFORE THE END OF FEBRUARY AND ISSUE ITS WHITE PAPER ON MARCH 19.

7. POLITICAL-MILITARY ASSESSMENTS IN PERIODS OF TENSION AND CRISIS: - LUNS RAISED THIS SUBJECT AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND EXERCISES COMMITTEE (COEC) CALLING FOR ACTIVATION IN TIMES OF TENSION OF TWO NEW HIGH-LEVEL WORKING GROUPS COMPOSED OF MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF AND THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STAFF. LUNS DISAGREED WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND ASKED PERMREPS TO LOOK HARD AT THEM. COMMENT: LUNS AND SOME OF HIS TOP STAFF STRONGLY OPPOSE THESE COEC RECOMMENDATIONS, BELIEVING THAT THE PRODUCTION OF POLITICAL-MILITARY ASSESSMENTS IN TIMES OF CRISIS SHOULD BE HANDLED BY EXISTING NATO COMMITTEES AND CREATION OF ADDITIONAL ALLIANCE APPARATUS SHOULD BE AVOIDED. THE SYG IS CONVINCED THAT COEC APPROVAL OF C-M(74)52 WAS ACHIEVED WITHOUT PERMREPS PAYING SIGNIFICANT ATTENTION TO THE RAMIFICATIONS AND DETAILS OF THE PROPOSALS. HE IS ANXIOUS TO RECRUIT SUPPORT FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR REJECTION OR SHARP MODIFICATION OF THE COEC RECOMMENDATIONS WHEN THEY COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL, PROBABLY ON JANUARY 22. LUNS APPEARS TO HAVE GAINED FRENCH, ITALIAN AND NORWEGIAN SUPPORT. CONFIDENTIAL

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END COMMENT.
BRUCE

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